

Nevertheless, I want to emphasize the point that without the co-operation and assistance of private nursing homes, the State would be faced with an enormous task of providing adequate care for our elderly citizens. It is for this reason that I come to Easton today to participate in the dedication of this magnificent new nursing home. This home, and nursing homes similar to it throughout the State, offer comfort and solace to those of advanced years. It is a shield for the elderly against the ravages of loneliness and the feeling of not being wanted. It is a symbol of our concern and respect for those generations who have provided us with a bountiful State and country and who have now earned their day of rest from toil and labor. It is, in a very true sense, a manifestation of our obligations to our elder citizens.

As we dedicate this nursing home today, let us also rededicate ourselves to the task of insuring that our elderly shall receive the best of all possible care now and in the future.

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ADDRESS, COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT  
OF THE HANDICAPPED

BALTIMORE

April 18, 1963

I am both pleased and highly honored to have this opportunity to attend this luncheon at which we honor the boys and girls who have been adjudged winners of the 1963 essay and poster contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee to promote employment of the handicapped.

May I say, first of all, that it is inspiring and encouraging to me to witness this display of interest and concern in this vital subject — the employment of the handicapped men and women of our State. The Committee which I have named to handle this important problem — the Governor's Committee to Promote Employment of the Handicapped — has had exceptional success in persuading businessmen and other employers that it is to their advantage, and to the benefit of the community as a whole, to hire persons with physical handicaps. This essay and poster contest is just one of the many projects the Committee has sponsored to promote a good idea — the idea that it is "ability that counts" and that the employment of these people not only improves the lot of the handicapped themselves but contributes to the general welfare of our State.